

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 SAJ-01

/112 W
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R 020555Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9742
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13418

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, NAC
SUBJECT: GOP VIEWS ON NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO

REF: MANILA 13038

1. ON SEPTEMBER 1, EMBOFFS CALLED ON GOP AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERS, PACIFICO CASTRO, WHO WAS PART OF GOP DELEGATION TO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. CASTRO DISCUSSED (A) GOP AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT; (B) KOREAN QUESTION; AND (C) LAOTIAN ATTACK ON ASEAN ZPFN.

2. GOP AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT: CASTRO SAID GOP GUEST STATUS IN COLOMBO FAR BETTER THAN STATUS ENJOYED AT LIMA CONFERENCE. GOP WAS GIVEN OBSERVER CREDENTIALS WITH "GUEST" HANDWRITTEN BENEATH OBSERVER DESIGNATION. GOP ALSO FURNISHED CAR, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, SECURITY PASSES WHICH ALLOWED GOP DELEGATES ACCESS TO ALL SESSIONS. DELEGATION CHAIRMAN INGLES EVEN HAD SRI LANKAN ARMY AIDE. CASTRO CONTRASTED THIS
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WITH LIMA MINISTERIAL WHEN GOP HAD TO MAKE ITS OWN

HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND COULD PARTICIPATE ONLY IN OPENING AND CLOSING PLENARY SESSIONS. AT COLOMBO, GOP PARTICIPATED IN ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

3. MEBOFFS ASKED WHO HAD OPPOSED GOP OBSERVER STATUS. CASTRO SAID NO ONE REPEAT NO ONE HAD SPOKEN AGAINST PHILIPPINES. THIS IS CONTRARY TO WHAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY VERCELES HAD TOLD US (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO CASTRO, INDIA PRIME MOVER IN EFFORT DENY PHILIPPINES OBSERVER STATUS. INDIA LOBBIED VARIOUS MEMBERS BEHIND THE SCENES (ESPECIALLY AFRICAN AND ISLAMIC STATES WHO WERE SUPPORTING GOP IN RESPONSE TO APPEAL FROM GABON PRESIDENT BONGO). INDIA'S OPPOSITION BASED ON DESIRE NOT TO SET PRECEDENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT OBSERVER STATUS FOR PAKISTAN, TURKEY AND IRAN. CASTRO ADDED HE WAS QUITE ENCOURAGED BY GOP SHOWING IN COLOMBO ESPECIALLY SINCE GOP MADE NO EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT (LIKE ROMANIA) TO GAIN OBSERVER STATUS. EMBOFFS ASKED VENUE OF NEXT NAC MINISTERIAL. CASTRO SAID SMILINGLY, "THEY SAY IT WILL BE PYONGYANG" IN 1978. SUMMIT WOULD BE IN HAVANA IN 1979. NA BUREAU, HOWEVER, WOULD MEET IN BELGRADE NEXT YEAR.

4. ASKED WHETHER GOP WOULD PERSIST IN ITS EFFORT TO GAIN OBSERVER STATUS, CASTRO SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WAS INEVITABLE. NE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS (HE SPECIFIED INTER ALIA PUERTO RICO ISSUE) ON WHICH IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOP TO JOIN IN ANY CONSENSUS. HE SEEMED TO CONCLUDE THAT GOP WOULD FIND OBSERVER STATUS PREFERABLE TO FULL MEMBERSHIP, THAT OBSERVER STATUS WOULD GIVE GOP BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. CASTRO APPEARED ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT NAM ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PREDICTED GROWING NAM ACTIVITIES (IN CONCERT WITH OTHER NON-NAM THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES) IN THIS AREA. HE ENVISAGED EVENTUAL COMBINATION OF GROUP OF 77 AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

5. KOREAN QUESTION: POLCOUNS ASKED CASTRO WHY NORTH KOREANS WERE ABLE TO FORCE THEIR RESOLUTION ON CONFERENCE IN THE FACE OF REPORTED SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION. CONFIDENTIAL

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CASTRO REPLIED THAT NORTH KOREANS FIELDERD EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG DELEGATION (AT LEAST 100) AND THAT THEY WERE EVERYWHERE. HE SAID IT WAS RELATIVELY EASY FOR NORTH KOREA TO MAKE STRONG CASE FOR ITS RESOLUTION, ESPECIALLY AMONG MORE MILITANT THIRD WORLD MEMBERS. PHILIPPINE DELEGATION LEFT PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF FINAL RESOLUTION. THUS CASTRO HAD NO FURTHER DETAILS TO OFFER ON KOREAN QUESTION BUT HE GAVE IMPRESSION ADOPTION DPRK POSITION

HAD BEEN FOREGOIN CONCLUSION.

6. LAOTIAN OPPOSITION TO ASEAN ZPFN: IN SAME VEIN, CASTRO SAID STRONG LAOTIAN (READ SRV) ATTACK ON ASEAN ZPFN PROPOSAL WAS TO BE EXPECTED. ACCORDING TO CASTRO, INDOCHINESE STATES AND TO SOME EXTENT ANGOLANS WERE HEROES OF CONFERENCE. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT INDOCHINESE STATES WOULD MAKE STRONG STATEMENT. CASTRO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN CONTRAST TO STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENTS, INDOCHINESE STATES HAD BEEN FAIRLY ACCOMMODATING IN BILATERAL CONTACTS. THUS REPRESENTATIVE OF KAMPUCHEA HAD SOUGHT OUT FILIPINOS, REQUESTED AND WAS GRANTED IENG SARY MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY INGLES. CASTRO DID NOT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SQUARE SRV BILATERAL EXPRESSIONS OF GOOD WILL TOWARD ASEAN MEMBERS WITH CONDEMNATION OF ASEAN QUA ASEAN. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, REPORTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA13418
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760333-0052
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760998/aaaadfuq.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 13038
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP VIEWS ON NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO
TAGS: PFOR, RP, NAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006